

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 IO-14 AID-20 DRC-01 /124 W

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R 121030Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 8031

AMCONSUL UDORN

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 2009

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINR, MOPS, LA, TH

SUBJECT: REPORTED PL/NVA MENACE TO THAILAND

REF: A. VIENTIANE 1819

B. BANGKOK 3961

1. WE NOTE THAT BANGKOK POST MARCH 11 PUBLISHED ANOTHER EXAGGERATED ACCOUNT OF COMMUNIST FORCES STATIONED ALONG ROUTE 13 IN MR III, PRESENTING AN IMPLICIT THREAT TO THAI SECURITY. ARTICLE BRACKETED THIS ASSERTION WITH HEADLINE STORY THAT RTG WILL ASK VIENTIANE GOVERNMENT FOR AN ARRANGMENT UNDER WHICH THEIR PATROL BOATS IN HOT PURSUIT OF CRIMINALS MAY CROSS THE BORDER ON THE MEKONG RIVER.

2. REF A FORWARDED OUR ASSESSMENT THAT NEWSPAPER REPORTS OF A PL/NVA BUILD-UP ALONG THE THAI/LAO BORDER ARE UNSUBSTANTIATED BY ANY FIRM INFORMATION. THERE ARE INDICATIONS, HOWEVER, THAT EXCHANGES OF FIRE HAVE OCCURED BETWEEN MROU PATROL BOATS AND ENEMY UNITS WHO CONTROL THE LAO BANK OF THE MEKONG NORTH OF THAKHEK.

3. ARTICLE 13(D) OF THE SEPTEMBER 14 LAO PROTOCOL
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PROVIDES FOR REOPENING OF ROUTE 13 AND THE MEKONG RIVER

OVER STRETCHES UNDER BOTH SIDES' CONTROL SIMULTANEOUSLY WITH IMPROVEMENT OF SITUATION THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY. FORMATION OF A NEW COALITION GOVERNMENT, WHEN IT OCCURS, WILL EXERT STRONG PRESSURE ON BOTH SIDES TO IMPLEMENT THIS PROVISION. THIS SHOULD RESULT IN A DISENGAGEMENT OF THE TWO OR THREE NVA BATTALIONS BETWEEN PAK KADING AND THAKHEK AND RELIEVE THE RTG'S JUSTIFIABLE CONCERN.

4. WE THINK THIS IS THE ONLY FEASIBLE SOLUTION TO THE PROBLEM AND DOUBT THAT A "HOT PURSUIT" ARRANGEMENT WILL BENEFIT ANYONE EXCEPT THOSE ELEMENTS WHO WISH TO DELAY POLITICAL SETTLEMENT IN LAOS AND ENVENOM RELATIONS BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. WE WERE THUS GRATIFIED TO NOTE THE REASONABLE APPROACH TOWARD THIS PROBLEM TAKEN BY RTG FOREIGN MINISTER CHAROONPHAN, MARCH 6 (REF B).
WHITEHOUSE

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Reason:
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30 JUN 2005

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